Year	Total Murder Cases	Cases Worked out	Convicted	Acquitted
1998	651	412	6	25
1999	643	435	1	1

A large number of cases were pending trial or investigation during the said years. The reasons for low conviction rate include, *inter alia*, prolonged trial and lengthy procedure, lack of independent witnesses and allurement of witnesses by the accused. The Central Government, under its Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, has been providing financial assistance to the State Government for procuring scientific equipments, etc.

ISI activities in the Western border

5559. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ISI activities noticed by Government in the country, recently; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check such activities in the Western border in Gujarat and Rajasthan which has become a safe haven for ISI activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Pak ISI is persisting with its efforts to foment trouble in various parts of the country. Several Pak ISI backed terrorist modules have been detected/neutralised recently in Punjab, UP and other areas of the country. The activities cover infiltrating militants, smuggling in weapons, explosives, fake currency and drugs with a view to stepping up the activities of militant groups.

(b) In order to check ISI activities and curb the smuggling and other anti-national activities from across the Western border, Government have undertaken the work of construction of fencing and flood lighting on the border. Security fencing in Rajasthan Sector has been completed recently. Government have also approved a comprehensive proposal for construction of fencing and flood lighting on raised embankment, border roads, link roads and order Outposts in 310 KMs. of Rann of Kutch area in Gujarat Sector. Apart from this, the Government has sanctioned additional battalions to reduce the gaps between the OPs. Patrolling/nakas have been increased/intensified. Border patrolling has been intensified. Mounted patrolling on horses, camels

and tractors is being done. Further, modern equipments have been provided to the security forces to keep a close vigil over the area.

Sabotage in North-East Region

5560. PROF.M.SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a lot of reports of sabotage is reported in the entire North-Eastern Region;

(b) what steps Government are taking to curb insurgency in the region;

(c) whether Government are thinking of extending unilateral ceasefire in the region to find an amicable solution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Except for a few incidents by suspected ULFA activists in Assam before the Republic Day, there are no recent reports of sabotage in the North Eastern States.

(b) Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North East include, *inter alia*, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as unlawful associations. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Facilities for prisoners in Tihar

5561. PROF.M.SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided to the various categories of prisoners in accordance with the Jail manual; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some accused are provided or enjoying the facilities of colour TV, fridge and newspapers in Tihar Jail of Delhi?